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NFAC NOTICE
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FORMS OF INTERAGENCY INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTION

1. Interagency intelligence production is conducted under the aegis of the National Intelligence Council. There are five standard forms for such production. Each displays any significant differences among agencies with regard to estimative judgments, along with the rationale underlying each position.

- a. National Intelligence Estimate. The NIE addresses a foreign situation of highest policy concern to the United States. The exposition is normally structured in a way that will illuminate policy issues. An NIE goes beyond the consideration of factual evidence to project likely outcomes. It is issued by the DCI with the advice and assistance of NFIB.
- b. Special National Intelligence Estimate. The SNIE shares the attributes of the NIE but addresses an urgent and specific problem. It usually stems from a request by policymakers. It is shorter and is prepared and coordinated more quickly than an NIE. It is issued by the DCI with the advice and assistance of NFIB.
- c. Interagency Intelligence Memorandum. The IIM is an assessment of a foreign situation of high policy concern to the US. The IIM often presents a considerable amount of evidential or methodological detail and may or may not present estimates about the future. It is the appropriate interagency vehicle on occasions when the paramount intelligence task is the reaching of factual determinations. The IIM is issued by the DD/NFA and is coordinated in the Intelligence Community at a level below NFIB, although representatives may seek the approval of their principals. It may be referred to NFIB and issued by the DCI if he so decides or on request of an NFIB member.

25X1

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- d. Alert Memorandum. The AM is a brief assessment warning of a current development that threatens US interests. It addresses the possible trend of events, the resulting implications for US interests, and relevant intelligence collection actions. It is the shortest and most time-urgent of the types of interagency intelligence production, and the degree of coordination within the Intelligence Community varies according to time available.
- e. The Memorandum to Holders is a device used:
 - to reaffirm the findings of an existing paper after the passage of time or after significant changes in the situation.
 - to update an existing paper that does not require extensive reexamination.
 - to consider new questions or materials in conjunction with an existing, valid paper.

Memoranda to Holders are prepared to the same standards and by the same procedures as their parent papers.

2. The attached chart identifies, for comparative purposes, salient characteristics of these forms of interagency production. Each interagency project is distinctive. The decision whether it should result in an NIE, SNIE, or IIM rests on a judicious weighing of these characteristics, and should result in a higher proportion of NIEs and SNIEs and a lower proportion of IIMs than has recently been the case.



Bruce C. Clarke, Jr.
Director
National Foreign Assessment Center

Attachment

All portions of this Notice including the attachment are classified CONFIDENTIAL

Distribution "A" (1-6)

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| | Importance of Subject | Relation to Specific Policy Issues | Projects Forward? | Preferred Length | Detailed Factual Treatment | Time to Prepare | Method of Coordination |
|------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| NIE | Highest | Direct, broad, basic | Yes - year or several years | Normally 10-20 pages w/annexes if necessary | Primarily in annexes | Weeks to months | NFIB principals |
| SNIE | Highest | Direct, focused, time-urgent | Yes - weeks or months | Normally 5-8 pages | Limited; No annexes | Days to weeks | NFIB principals (through reps) |
| IIM | High | Relevant but indirect | Maybe - no set limit | Indefinite | In text or annexes as appropriate | Weeks to months | Working level* |
| AM | Highest | Direct | Yes - days to weeks | 1-2 pages | No | Hours to days | Working level |

*Under referral to NFIB

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